

Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Newsletter



Vol I, Issue I | Sept 2016

Reformed SIEC Holds First Meeting

August 8th—Longwood University

After an extended hiatus, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee reconvened at Longwood University, spearheading renewed efforts within the Commonwealth to strengthen state and local governance pertaining to public safety communications. The reestablished Committee's membership is more inclusive than previous versions, recognizing the emergence of new technologies and the challenges of shrinking budgets supporting ever growing requirements. Membership includes representation from the seven Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees—Interoperability, various state agencies with interests in interoperability, and several professional associations as well. Totalling 35 entities with a stake in the future of public safety communications, the Committee provides the necessary depth and breadth of expertise to advise local and state officials.

During the August 8th meeting, membership established various subcommittees to begin work to advance various priorities identified by the group.

These subcommittees include:

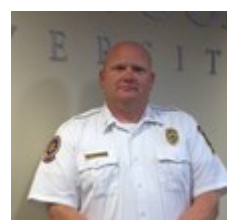
- Standard Statewide Nomenclature Development
- Statewide ID
- COMLINC Advisory Board
- Training
- FirstNet/Emerging Technologies
- Outreach
- Grants

All SIEC members and individuals who are not SIEC members are invited to participate in the subcommittees.

SIEC Leadership



Terry Hall was selected as SIEC Chair. He currently serves as the Director of the York-Poquoson-Williamsburg Regional 911 Emergency Communications Center.



Captain Corey Beazley was selected as SIEC Vice Chair. He currently serves with Hanover Fire EMS.

Both will serve two year terms.

What is the SIEC's Purpose?

Members of the SIEC provide recommendations to the SWIC to determine statewide priorities related to public safety interoperable communications. As a practitioner based advisory group, the SIEC is made up of members from key organizations representing the first responder community, localities, and state agencies. Individual representatives are selected based upon their technical and public safety knowledge, bringing decades of experience to this level of governance. SIEC responsibilities include:

- Conducting an annual review and update of the Statewide Plan.
- Implementing the initiatives contained within the Statewide Plan.
- Providing recommendations on the use of interoperability grants.



SIEC member and RPAC-I Region 3 Chair Melissa Foster discussing possible solutions for improving interoperability throughout the Commonwealth.

SIEC Meeting Highlights

- Chief Bob Beach of Longwood University PD provided opening comments concerning the history and evolution of interoperability spanning his 42-year law enforcement career and shared an update on the Vice Presidential Debate preparations.
- The SWIC, Tom Gagnon, provided an update on the Commonwealth's Link to Interoperable Communications (COMLINC) that included a proposed Commonwealth-wide service contract. COMLINC continues to underpin LMR interoperability between state agencies and localities with sustainment becoming increasingly more challenging as the "system of systems" grows, equipment ages, and grant funding diminishes. The sustainment challenge has two components: the near term need to begin a renewable one-year service and support contract, and the long term requirement to develop a multi-year Commonwealth-wide plan to refresh system hardware and software. Following Tom's presentation the SIEC reestablished the COMLINC Advisory Group with members chosen from the RPAC-Is, VSP, VDEM, VDH, VDOT, VDMA, VACo, and VML.
- The SIEC will be involved in the vetting process of interoperability grant proposals during the next grant submission cycle. The SWIC will work with the Grants Subcommittee to develop a methodology.
- First Responders Network Authority (FirstNet) outreach continues within the Commonwealth as five of the seven RPAC-Is received updates and FirstNet is planning an outreach event in Virginia Beach on September 20th. Award of the FirstNet contract is projected Nov. 1st.

Next SIEC Meeting:

- Oct 25th at the APCO/NENA/Interoperability Conference
- Hotel Roanoke
- 10:00 am—2:00 pm in the Roanoke Ballroom A

Radio Interoperability Operating System (RIOS) Training Announcement

Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) is funding contractor facilitated RIOS / Gateway training at three locations in late September. Locations are:

- McConnell PS Transportation Ops Ctr - Sept. 26
- Hanover ECC - Sept. 28
- Roanoke Co. PS Ctr - Sept. 30

Training will last approximately 3.5 hours with morning and afternoon sessions running 8am—11:30am and 12:30pm - 4pm. Instruction will focus on practical user skills and hands-on practice at a RIOS equipped dispatcher's console.

Remaining seats are filling rapidly, please contact Tom Gagnon if interested.

Virginia Public Safety Broadband Network Website:

<https://vapsbn.virginia.gov>

About the Virginia SIEC Newsletter

The *SIEC Newsletter* serves as a source of information, news, and updates for SIEC members and all public safety communications stakeholders.

Comments and inquiries may be forwarded to :

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